



7.1 INTRODUCTION

Historic areas, parks and recreational areas are increasingly important in today's environment. The park and recreational areas, public and private, active and passive, in Mentor are of the highest quality. With nearly 3.6 miles of Lake Erie shore (approximately 1.4 miles public accessible), Mentor has numerous amenities to offer, with the lake views alone attracting residents and visitors from the region. Mentor is also home to unique resources such as Lawnfield, Civic Ice Arena, Mentor Lagoons, and Headlands Beach State Park (portion).

According to the 2007 land use survey, approximately 1,200 acres of parks and recreational areas exist in Mentor (Table 7.1, Map 7.1). Additional recreation land is located on land owned by the Mentor School District (Table 7.20). While Mentor's population has been growing at a slow to moderate rate, land consumption to serve new residents is growing at an unproportional rate, thus increasing the need to preserve prime natural areas.

History is also a major component in Mentor's quality of life. Mentor has a variety of historical sites, notably the home of a former United States president, James A. Garfield. Levels of recognition include century homes identified by the Lake County Historical Society and eight sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately 120 historic structures and sites have been identified in this plan.

This chapter will discuss the public facilities, parks, historic resources and safety forces that exist in the City of Mentor. The intent of the Public Facilities element is to ensure that schools, parks, public safety facilities, community centers, and other government-provided amenities continue to meet, if not exceed, the needs of city residents and visitors. These amenities should contribute positively to enhancing the overall quality of life of the city.

7.2 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The City of Mentor owns or operates 21 parks with a total of 1,199 acres (Table 7.1, Map 7.1). When combined with Mentor Marsh area, Lake Metroparks holdings (or other conservation based organizations), or property owned by the school district, which serves as valuable regional and neighborhood open space, the total open space acreage increases to over 2,300 acres.

The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within urban areas was the expression of acres of parkland per person. Over time, six to ten acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents – mini-parks and tot lots, neighborhood parks, and community parks, not nature preserves, undeveloped parks, school grounds, private open space or school grounds – came to be the accepted standard recommended by the National Parks and Recreation Association. This ratio is used by a majority of communities in the United States.

Using this guideline of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, the City of Mentor should have about 600 acres of *developed* parkland by the plan year 2020. According to Table 7.1, approximately 420 acres of developed parkland exist, representing a deficiency of about 180 acres. Acquiring additional acreage may not be necessary as the existing parks have acreage to expand recreational activities as necessary. Furthermore, this deficiency may be lower due to the acquisition of the Morton Salt property.

Table 7.1 City Parks and Open Space

Park	Location	Acres	Dev.	Undev
Bellflower Park	7271 Bellflower Rd.	22.29	22.00	0.29
Bellflower Skate Park	6655 Reynolds Rd.	0.50	0.50	
Center St. Ballfield/Sledding Hill	8350 Carpenter Dr.	8.95	8.95	
Civic Center Park	8500 Civic Center Blvd.	107.06	53.53	53.53
Dog Park (leased from CEI)	6645 Hopkins Rd.	3.00	3.00	
Eleanor B. Garfield Park	7967 Mentor Ave.	60.70	40.00	20.70
Hodgson Park	Hodgson Rd. & Rt. 306	14.09		14.09
Krueger Park	7556 Chillicothe Rd.	29.18	6.00	23.18
Mentor Beach Park	7779 Lakeshore Blvd.	13.30	10.60	2.70
Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina	8365 Harbor Dr.	450.00	150.0	300.0
Mentor Municipal Cemetery	6881 Hopkins Rd.	58.88	30.00	28.88
Morton Park (4 acres leased from Mentor Public Schools)	9325 Rosemary Ln.	13.30	10.60	2.70
Presidents Park	Ohio St. & Rt. 306	41.62	30.00	11.62
Ridge Roller Hockey (leased from Mentor Schools)	7860 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.	0.55	0.55	
Rose Garden	8537 Mentor Ave.	1.00	1.00	
Tiefenbach Park	Lake Overlook & Cordury Rd.	1.54	0.55	0.99
Veterans Park (leased to Lake Metroparks)	5740 Hopkins Rd.	82.79	41.39	41.39
Wildwood Cultural Center	7645 Little Mountain Rd.	34.50	4.00	30.50
Black Brook Golf Course	8900 Lakeshore Blvd.	150.00		
Black Brook Golf Course Annex Property	8862 Lakeshore Blvd.	7.07		
Morton Salt Property	Jordan Dr.	99.57		
TOTAL ACREAGE		1,199.89		

Source: City of Mentor, 2009

Using the standards set forth in Tables 7.2 and 7.3, the city has adequate park facilities for the population by combining the city, school board, and Lake Metropark owned areas. Using city facilities alone, Mentor has deficiency in the amount of the smaller mini parks and neighborhood/community parks and an adequate amount of larger regional/community parks in the recommended amount of parkland for a community. The 1997 plan recognized this deficiency and noted the school areas should fulfill the role of neighborhood parks.

Table 7.2 Classification and minimum park area requirements

<i>Park type</i>	<i>Area/1,000 residents</i>	<i>Size of park</i>	<i>Service radius</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Mini park Designed to provide recreational opportunities for a small area in a neighborhood. Typically designed for young children, however in some cases it may be designed for aesthetic purposes.	1 ac	0.5 to 1 ac	0.25 to 0.5 mi	Mentor has 2 mini parks.
Neighborhood park Designed to serve recreational needs of children 6-15 years of age, as well as adults, pre-schoolers, and seniors. Typically includes family picnic areas, unlighted open turf areas for informal sports, and play equipment. Lighted athletic fields would not be included.	3 ac	2 to 14 ac	0.25 to 0.75 mi	Mentor has 5 neighborhood parks.
Community park Designed to serve a wide variety of needs for youths and adults in both active and passive recreation. Facilities for sports fields (lighted when appropriate), open turf areas, playgrounds, picnic areas, and off-street parking. Should include restrooms and related facilities. May include a community center. Components of neighborhood parks and mini-parks should be included in the community park.	6 ac	12 to 50 ac	1 to 2 mi	Mentor has 5 community parks.
Regional park Open space areas characterized by significant natural resources that provide passive recreation for nearby residents and the surrounding metropolitan area. Small portions of a regional park might be allocated to fulfill neighborhood park requirements.	15 ac	100 ac	Mentor, central Lake County	Mentor has 3 regional parks
Conservancy / open space area Land kept mostly in its natural state. Used to preserve natural areas such as riparian zones, bluffs, wetlands and other lands of recreational and scenic interest. May also include areas devoted to preservation of historic or cultural resources. Could include smaller portions of the area needed to satisfy local neighborhood recreational needs.	n/a	Sufficient to provide or preserve the resource	Northeast Ohio	Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina, Mentor Marsh, Headlands State Park

While Veterans Park, in particular, and to some extent most of the other parks, together with the Mentor Marsh provide passive recreation experiences, the total amount of passive facilities provided is probably sufficient, but somewhat lacking in convenient distribution. If the park system were to work out a leasing arrangement with the schools, for development and maintenance, an opportunity might exist to provide passive and active recreation more conveniently dispersed throughout the City.

Table 7.3 Active Recreational Facility Inventory and Recommended Requirements

<i>Park/facility type</i>	<i>Target park/ facility size</i>	<i>Existing assets</i>	<i>Year 2000 minimum requirements</i>	<i>Surplus Deficiency</i>
Neighborhood park (including acreage for mini-parks)*	4-12 ac; 4 ac/1,000 residents	62.7 ac	200 ac	-137.3 ac
Community park*	20-50 ac; 6 ac/1,000 residents	187 ac	300 ac	-113 ac
Tennis courts**	1:2,500 residents	16	20	-4
Basketball courts	1:5,000 residents	5	10	-5
Volleyball courts	1:20,000 residents	0	2	-2
Baseball diamond/softball	1:5,000 residents	39***	10	+19
Soccer/football fields	1:5,000 residents	9 ****	10	0
Swimming pool	1:20,000 residents	3, 2 spray parks	2	0
One half mile running track	1:20,000 residents	0	2	-2
Handball/racquetball court**	1:20,000 residents	0	2	-2
Dog park	2-5 ac/0.8-2.0 ac; 1:25,000 residents	1	2	-1

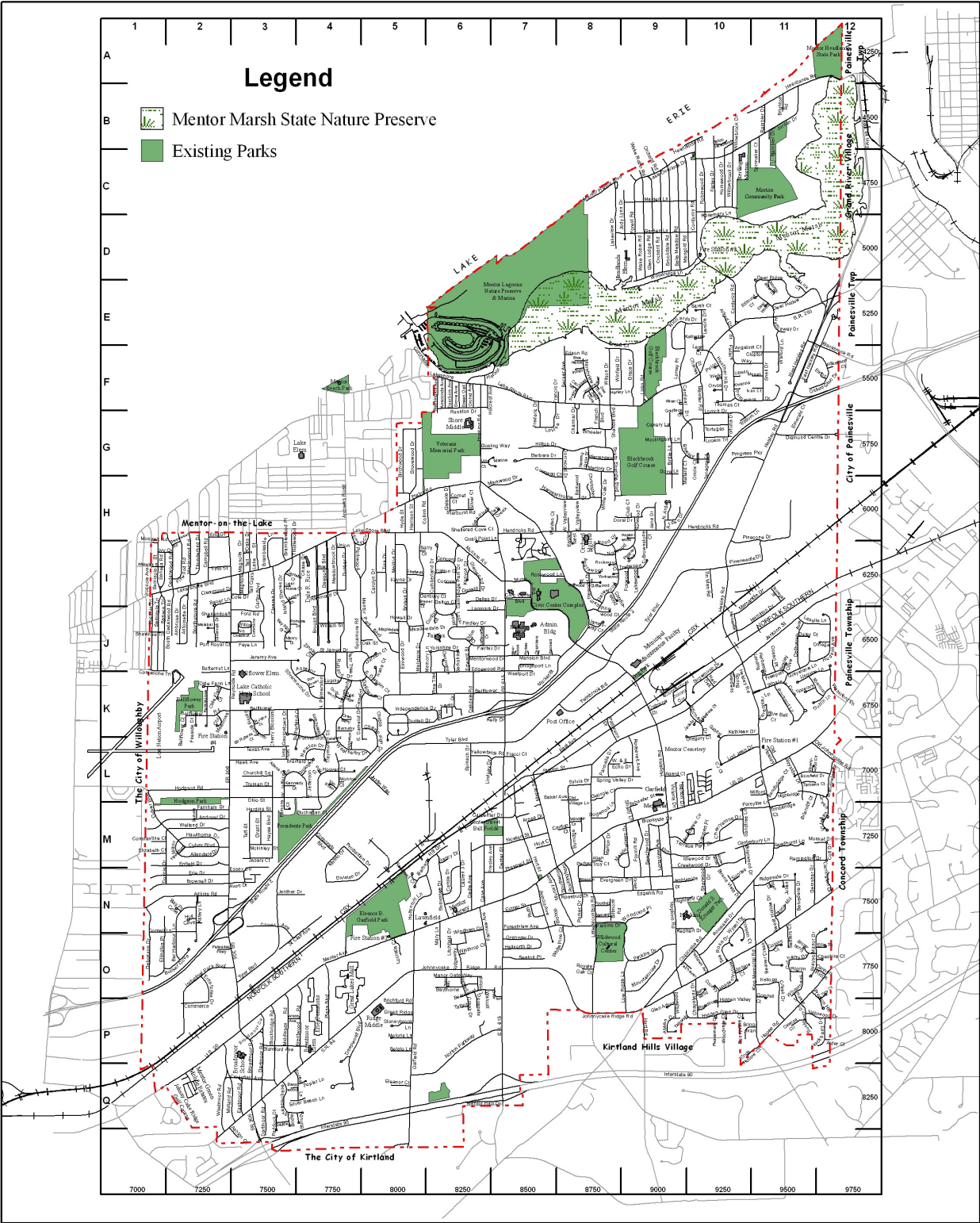
* This chart does not include Civic Center Par, Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve/Marina, Veterans Park, Blackbrook Golf Course or Morton Salt Property

** Ratio may be decreased due to the declining popularity of racquet sports.

*** 18 city owned,

**** 9 full size, more fields can be created based on required size (various by registration)

EXISTING PARKS
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



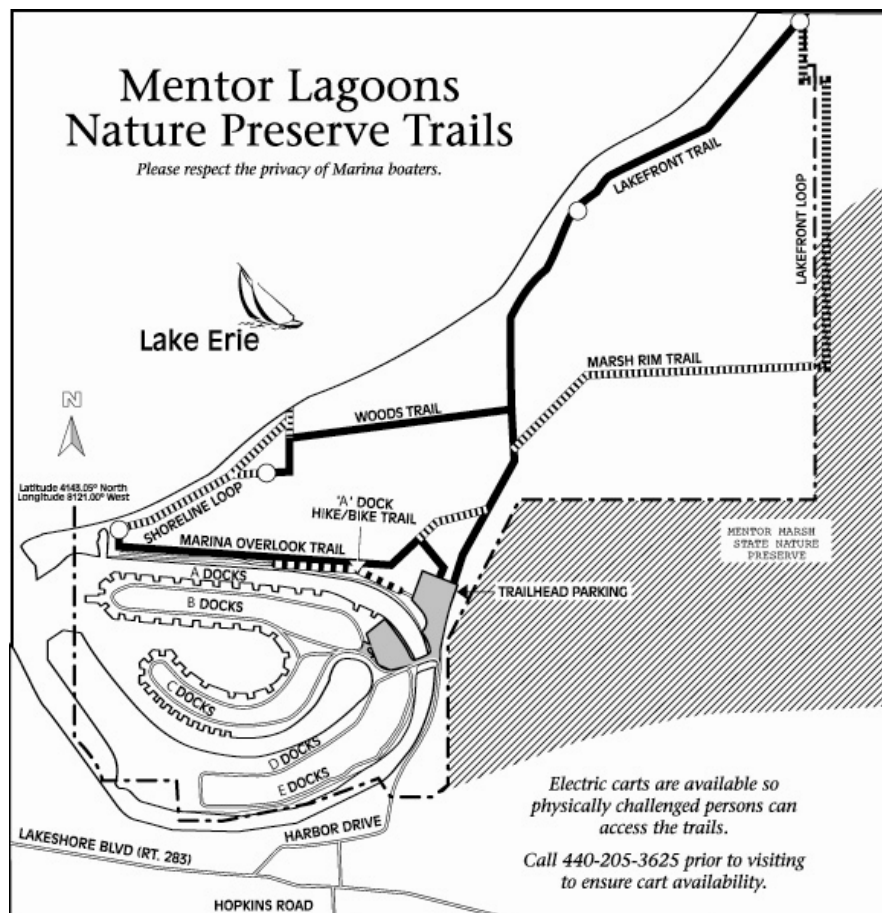
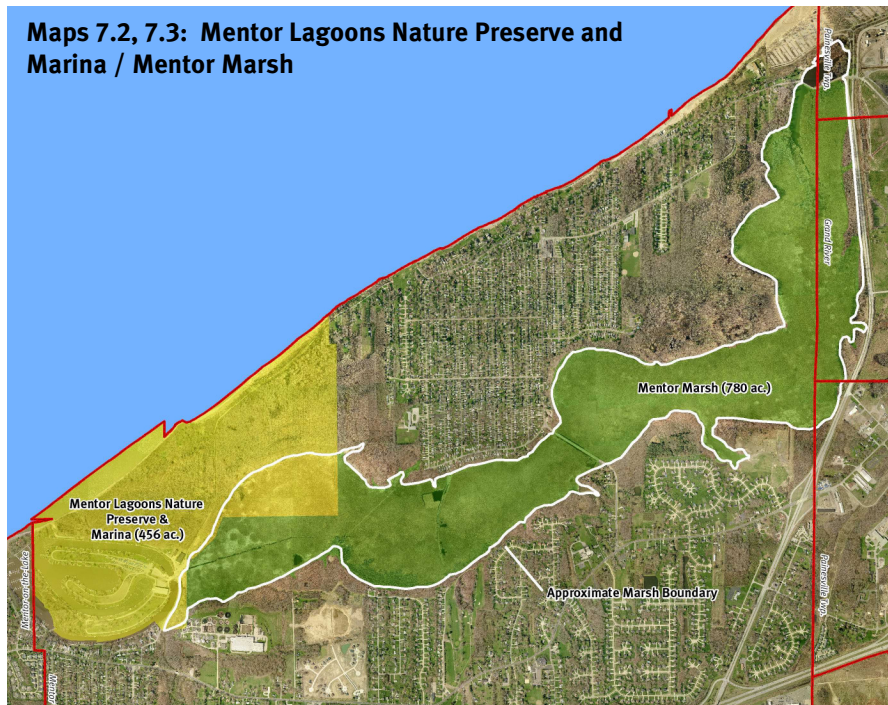
Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina

Owned by the City of Mentor, the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina occupy 450 acres along 1.5 miles of pristine, wild Lake Erie shoreline (Map 7.2, 7.3).

Acquired by the City in 1998, the park has over four miles of trails and manages a full-service marina with approximately 400 docks and 150 indoor boat storage spaces. The lagoons and Mentor Harbor provide direct access to Lake Erie.

The Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve offers a pedestrian-friendly public lake access point. There are two specific trails of interest for lakefront visitation: Shoreline Loop and Lakefront Trail. The Shoreline Loop extends a third of a mile along the western portion of the preserve. It has limited access to carts that are provided by the City to the handicapped. The Lakefront Loop is

Maps 7.2, 7.3: Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina / Mentor Marsh



open to everyone, regardless of cart possession, and extends 1.1 miles along the northwestern lakefront of the preserve. A third trail, Woods Trail, does not provide immediate beach access, but runs parallel to the waterfront for 0.6 miles. The Woods Trails connects to the Lakefront Trail and is similarly open to all visitors. Lake Erie cuts inland at the southwest corner of the MLNP, allowing five docks for boating. The Marina Overlook Trail follows the northern boundary of the docking areas for 0.6 miles with unlimited access for all wishing to view the lake and its many boaters.

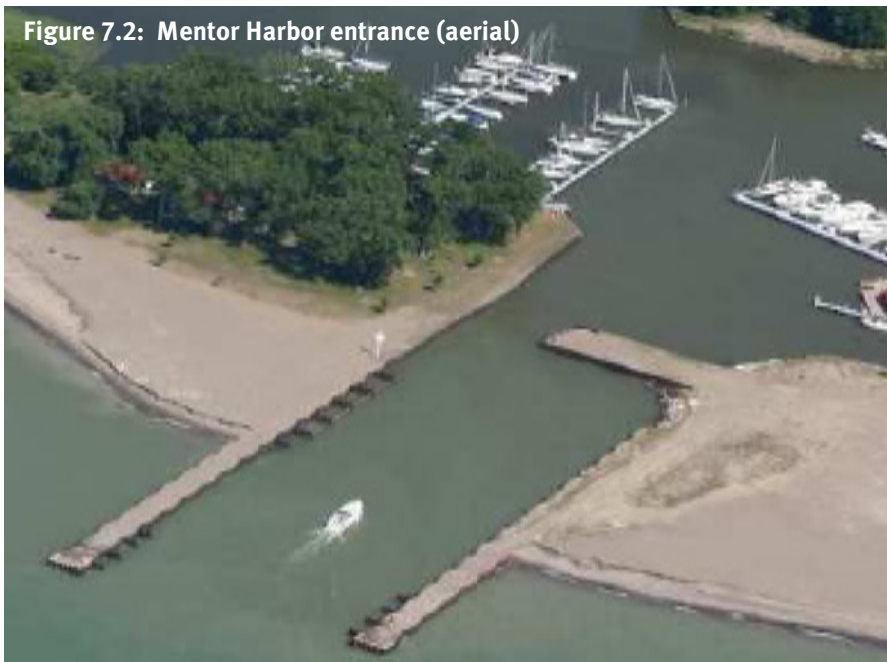
The harbor entrance, located in Mentor-on-the-Lake, is of great concern to the City of Mentor and Mentor Harbor Yacht Club, because it is prone to sedimentation. The harbor entrance has a silting problem that creates an annual maintenance burden of dredging at the beginning of each boating season, and periodically through the summer. The lagoons itself serves as a safe harbor for the recreational boating community. While the channel is outside the municipal border, proper functionality of the harbor entrance is essential to the operation of the marina.

The 2005 Lake County Coastal Development Plan identified the ingress/egress point as a priority project (Figures 7.1, 7.2). Currently, the entrance is substandard due to a sunken barge used to protect the harbor. This barge severely reduces the width of the channel entrance creating potentially unsafe boating

Figure 7.1: Mentor Harbor entrance



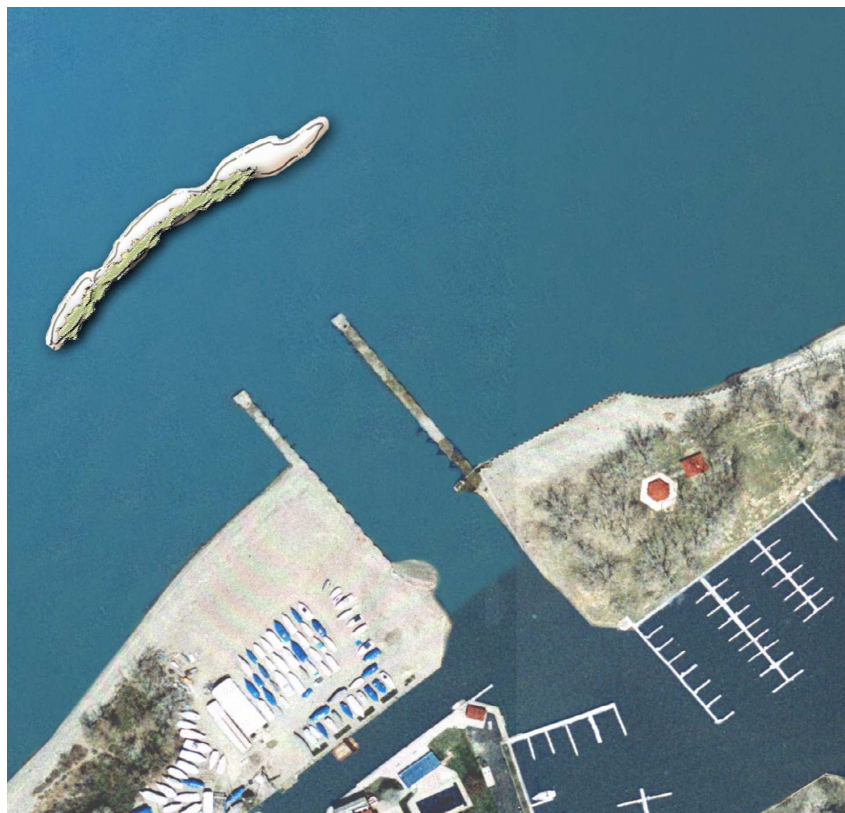
Figure 7.2: Mentor Harbor entrance (aerial)



conditions, especially in rough waters.

The goal for the channel is 1) protect the harbor and allow for safe navigation through the channel into the lagoons; and 2) effectively redirect, reduce, or remove the deposition of sand at the entrance to the channel.

The USACE conducted a study of this harbor that was completed in October, 2003. They evaluated a series of ten alternatives that could be simplified to four general concepts with minor variations: 1) Dog-leg piers as an extension of the west jetty; 2) a detached breakwater several hundred feet offshore that would cover each side of the entrance channel; 3) rubble mound absorbers internal to the channel and harbor, and 4) sand bypass systems or dredging with internal rubble mound absorbers. The USACE dismissed all concepts because they would either not be “economically justified due to the weighted recreational benefits derived from the economic analysis”, or because of the potential disruption of the littoral drift and possible impact on the downdrift shoreline, particularly the Mentor Marsh CBRA. Protection of the harbor and safe navigation through the channel is difficult to provide without the corresponding accumulation of sediment in the entrance and disruption of the littoral drift (at least until the entrance channel is filled).



The concept shown on figures 7.3, 7.4 provides the protection of the harbor through the use of an offshore breakwater, but requires either a sand by pass system or scheduled dredging to keep the entrance channel open. Sand that is bypassed or dredged should be placed east of the entrance channel to maintain the littoral drift system.

At the present time, there are few places along the Great Lakes where communities undertake sand-bypassing as opposed to mechanical or hydraulic dredging. Sand bypassing is typically used on the east and west coasts in areas requiring the removal of large volumes of sand consisting of uniform gradation. Along this reach of shoreline, there are smaller quantities of material to move and the sand is mixed with cobbles, gravels, and miscellaneous debris, making it less than ideal for sand-bypassing.

Placement of the offshore breakwater eliminates waves coming through the entrance channel and allows the removal of the sunken barge. Major elements of this concept that are part of the Opinion of Probable Construction Costs include removal of the sunken barge, channel dredging, and construction of an approximately 650 foot long rubblemound breakwater.

Within the park itself, previous plans, notably the “Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina 15 Year Plan” and 1998 “Urban Land Institute Study (ULI)” have proposed the following improvements to the facility:

Marina Improvements:

- Phase out A docks over 15 years and create a promenade for increased public access to the lake and lagoons.
- Improved water/sewer/electrical service
- Improved gas dock facility
- Other vendor services

Preserve Improvements:

- Observation tower
- Handicap shoreline access
- Picnic shelter
- Amphitheater
- Trail improvements
- Welcome center
- Pavilion
- Landscaping

More immediate needs include:

- Replacement of approximately 2.5 miles of bulkhead
- Increased preserve maintenance to protect the current natural resources from invasive species and to improve user enjoyment

The ULI Panel report recommended the expansion of an east/west trail connection along the north rim of the marsh, in the Mentor Lagoons area and along Corduroy Road. The trail could consist of a mixture of hiking trails and bike paths.

Listed in the ULI Panel report were other possible projects within the harbor and adjacent area including an amphitheater, stewardship center, and observation tower. Future improvements could also possibly include additional sanitary facilities, picnic pavilions,

Current semi-permanent improvements, such as covered decks and sheds made by dock users presents a challenge in maintaining the marina in a ‘green marine concept’. As slip lessees leave, the City is demolishing such permanent structures. The City of Mentor has developed the marina as a ‘green marina’ by providing green space by each dock. The ‘green marina’ concept has provided a market niche that is different from conventional boat marinas.

Map 7.4: ULI 1998 conceptual plan for the Mentor Lakefront Preserve
 Preserve (not officially adopted) (Urban Land Institute, City of Mentor)

Map Labels:

- EAST PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE
- RAMP DOWN TO BEACH (TYP.)
- BEACH RIM TRAIL
- BEACH TRAIL
- CONSERVATION AREA
- ALGAE RIM TRAIL
- UPPER RIM TRAIL
- BEACH PROMENADE (ALL PURPOSES TRAIL)
- BOAT CLUB AND BOAT CENTER
- PICNIC PAVILION (TYPICAL)
- RESTROOMS
- BOAT RAMP
- TIGER AREA
- MARINA/BOAT CENTER
- SERVICE BLOC
- EXISTING MENTOR MARSH
- EXISTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
- SPECIAL EVENT PARKING (OVERLOOK)
- PROPOSED NEW PARK ENTRANCE / ACCESS ROAD
- RESTAURANT HANGAR MASTER PLAN
- SECURITY AND PARKING
- EXISTING BOATING
- VISITOR ACCESS
- EXTEND TREE COVER
- LAKESHORE BLVD.
- EXISTING INLET
- EXISTING YACHT
- NIGHT CLUB AND BOAT CENTER
- PICNIC PAVILION (TYPICAL)
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO RESIDENTIAL

Map 7.4: ULI 1998 conceptual plan for the Mentor Lakefront Preserve
 Preserve (not officially adopted) (Urban Land Institute, City of Mentor)

Lake Access

There are three points of public lake access: Mentor Beach Park (located in Mentor-on-the-Lake), Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina (discussed above), Willowbrook Drive, and Headlands Beach State Park.

The Headlands Beach State Park is located at the northeastern most corner of the city. It includes 120 acres of lakefront land. Amenities include swimming, fishing, a children's playground, picnicking, a long beach, and over five miles of trails. The east end of the state park is a nature preserve known as the Headlands Dunes. This area is one of the last dune communities in Ohio and contains many plant species not commonly found outside the area.

Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve is adjacent to the south. This natural landmark includes 644 acres of marsh-swamp forest. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History jointly manage and care for this natural wonder. The Museum also leases 240 acres from the State to run naturalist programs from the Marsh House. These programs are supported by the educational committee of the museum. The museum is also actively acquiring marsh property whenever it becomes available. Access to all of these areas is limited to daylight hours only.

Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve

The 450 acre city-owned park is next to the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve. The park, managed by ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1966. The marsh itself, located in the abandoned channel of the Grand River, occupies 673 acres.

A beech-sugar maple forest occupies the higher elevations bordering the marsh. At the eastern edge of the preserve, there is a mixed oak swamp forest, a forest type destroyed in most parts of the Lake Erie region. The Mentor Marsh is recognized as an important Birding Area by the Audubon Society, making our area a globally recognized location for the preservation and protection of essential habitat for one or more species of bird for breeding, wintering, and/or migration.

The most extensive plant community type is an emergent wetland dominated by reed-grass or Phragmites. This is the largest Phragmite marsh in Ohio. The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species.

The preserve has parking, visitor center, 4 mile trail system (part of the Buckeye Trail network, www.buckeyetrail.org), including boardwalk trail and observation deck.

Mentor Marsh Special Area Management Plan

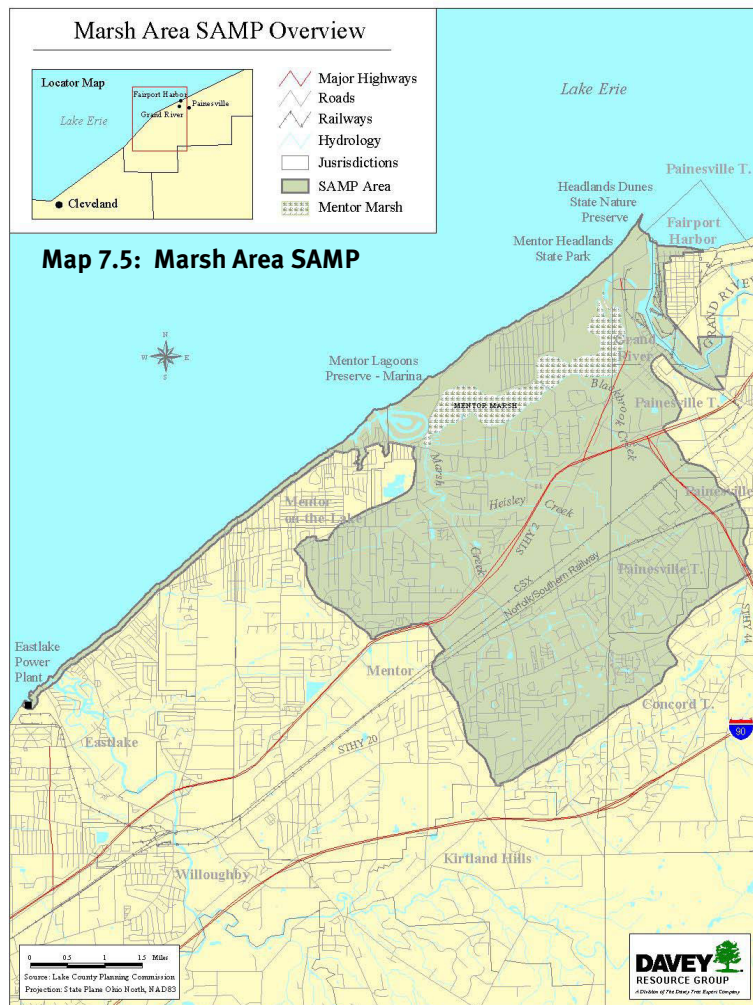
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources through their Office of Coastal Management under took the process of developing a Special Management Plan for the Mentor Marsh with the help of Davey Resources Group, 18 non-governmental organizations, 16 local/regional agencies, nine State of Ohio agencies and five federal agencies. Funding was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Map 7.5).

A Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) is a “comprehensive plan providing for natural resource protection and reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth containing a detailed comprehensive statement of policies; standards and criteria to guide public, and private uses of lands and waters; and mechanisms for timely implementation in specific geographic areas within the coastal zone” (Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C.A. Section 1453 (17)).

The Marsh Area Regional Coalition (MARC) was established to develop and promote the Mentor Marsh Area SAMP. The overlying objective of the SAMP is to protect and enhance the environmental, social, and economic assets of the Mentor Marsh Watershed and related communities for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (Ohio Lake Erie Commission, 2000) established ten guiding principles for a sustainable Lake Erie watershed. These principles provide a framework for the MARC as it develops the Mentor Marsh Area SAMP. The Plan states that activities in the Ohio Lake Erie watershed should:

- Maximize reinvestment in existing core urban areas, transportation, and infrastructure networks to enhance the economic viability of existing communities.



- Minimize the conversion of green space and the loss of critical habitat areas, farmland, forest, and open spaces.
- Limit any net increase in the loading of pollutants or transfer of pollution loading from one medium to another.
- To the extent feasible, protect and restore the natural hydrology of the watershed and flow characteristics of its streams, tributaries, and wetlands.
- Restore the physical habitat and chemical water quality of the watershed to protect and restore diverse, thriving plant and animal communities and preserve our rare and endangered species.
- Encourage the inclusion of all economic and environmental factors into cost/benefit accounting in land use and development decisions.
- Avoid development decisions that shift economic benefits or environmental burdens from one location to another.
- Establish and maintain a safe, efficient, and accessible transportation system that integrates highway, rail, air, transit, water, and pedestrian networks to foster economic growth and personal travel.
- Encourage that all new development and redevelopment initiatives address the need to protect and preserve access to historic, cultural, and scenic resources.
- Promote public access to and enjoyment of our natural resources for all Ohioans.

Specific taskforces exist to address/implement various variables with the plan. The following list indicates the taskforce and it's associated area of concern.

- **Water Quality**
 - Salt Contamination
- **Land Use and Economic Development**
 - Uncoordinated Land Use Planning
- **Wetlands and Biodiversity**
 - Loss
 - Hydromodification
 - Natural Disturbances
 - Public Understanding
- **Recreation and Public Access**
 - Lack of a Strategic Recreation Plan
- **Shoreline Management and Nearshore Issues**
 - Insufficient Sand Supply Activities
 - Landward of the Bluff Edge

In 2008, the MARC continued its planning initiative with a focus on completing an approved watershed action plan by the Ohio EPA.

This plan recommends continued participation with the SAMP and its dedication toward preservation of the area.

Blackbrook Golf Course

The 2005 acquisition of Blackbrook Golf course provides a substantial visual open space asset to those who don't golf and an active recreational outlet for those who do golf. The 18-hole public course spans approximately 150 acres along the Lakeshore Blvd. corridor.

Acquiring New Parkland

An acceptable general policy is that a city can never have enough or too much land for open space and public use. Once land is zoned, developed and in use, it is very difficult, costly, and politically undesirable to put it back in recreational use. The City should continue to seek good buildable land for recreation or open space whether it is undeveloped parcels or the rear portion of developed parcels which exceed zoning lot-area requirements.

Land that is suitable and needed to satisfy existing and anticipated recreation program demands should be acquired as soon as practical. As noted previously, neighborhood parks are of greatest need. The City must be prepared to move swiftly to protect the public interest for future generations. The City should develop a systematic program to acquire desirable land through donations from industry and local business; establish acquisition priorities; promote fund raising efforts by establishing a blue-ribbon committee to head up the effort – and get the public enthusiastic and involved. The Primary Conservation Areas (Map 4.16), discussed in Chapter 4, should be used as a guide when considering acquisition.

Along these lines, provisions to accept developer donations or reservations of land for open space and recreational purposes through zoning should be maintained. The provision should accept the donation of small parcels for open space, but not necessarily require that the City hold title to the land or be responsible for its maintenance and upkeep if the land serves no other useful public recreational purpose.

Situations arise where the expansion of existing park boundaries or the protection of these parks from possible encroachment can be achieved through parcel acquisition or easement. Good examples are the expansions of both Veteran's Park and Krueger Park.

In more developed communities, similar to Mentor, efforts should focus on linking existing facilities via bikeways, riparian corridors or acquisition. Lakefront parcels and lands adjacent to the Mentor Marsh should be considered a primary open space acquisition objective. Multiple funding sources are available to assist the City with acquisition and subsequent park planning costs.

Presently, a public indoor swimming facility does not exist in the City. The previous comprehensive plan indicates the potential for an indoor pool, but the facility should be associated with the Senior Center, Ice Arena, High School or other central location to serve all City residents. This plan concurs with this rationale. Future capital planning for an indoor pool should concentrate on existing facilities and review potential financial partners including the local school district and/or other private entity.

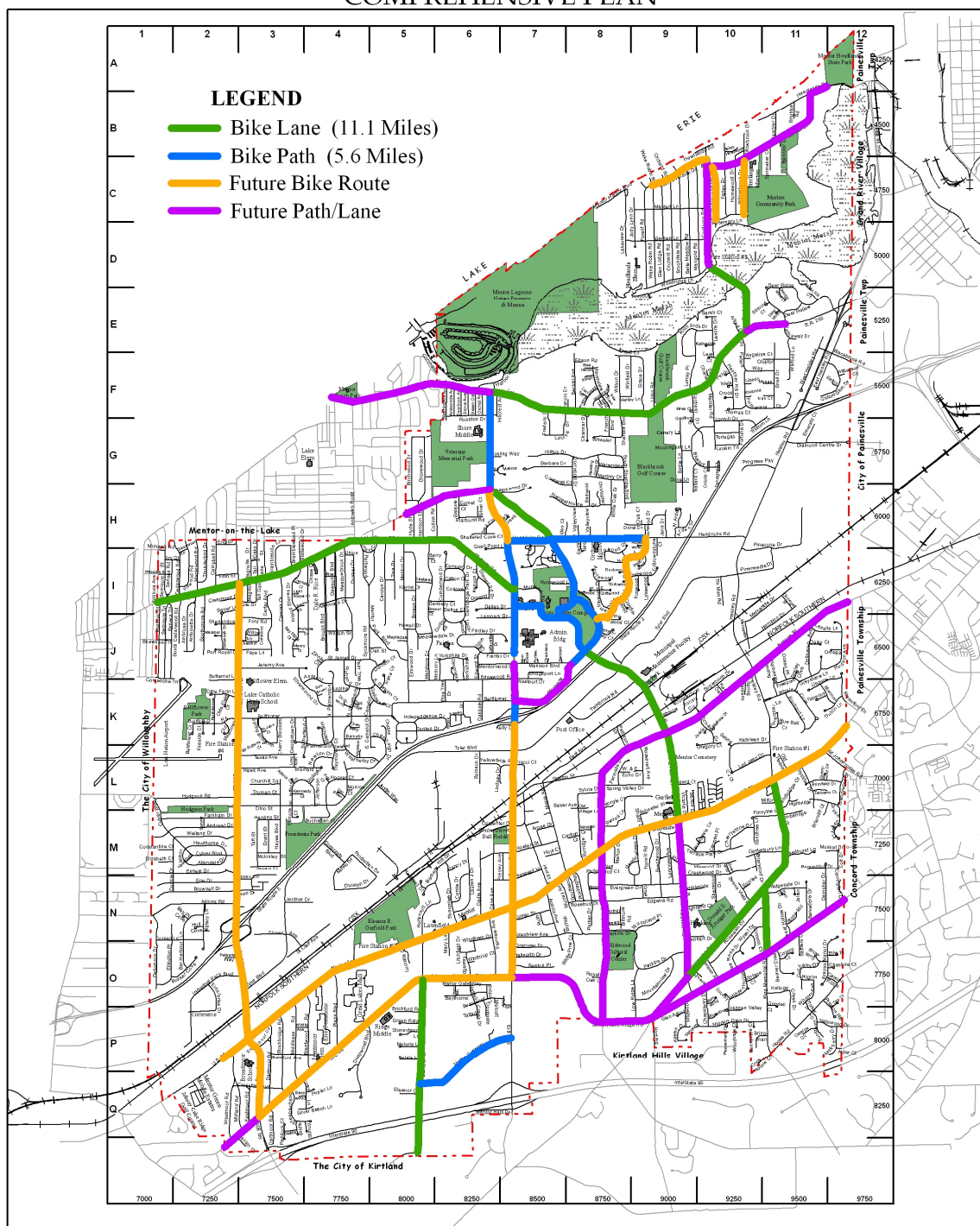
Bikeways

The City of Mentor is the Lake County leader of providing bike accommodations. Approximately 17 miles of bike lanes or paths exist (Map 7.6). See chapter 5.

Map 7.6: Bikeways

MENTOR BIKEWAY SYSTEM

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



7.3 SCHOOLS

The Mentor Public School System has 10 elementary schools (grades 1 through 5), 3 middle schools (grades 6-8) and one high school (grades 9-12). The district serves students from Mentor, Mentor-on-the-Lake and portions of Concord Township and Kirtland Hills (Map 7.7). The District owns 43 parcels, consuming over 330 acres of land (Table 7.4).

Similar to other Lake County school districts, Mentor School District has seen a 25% decrease in enrollment between 1996-1997 (Table 7.5). This is evidence of a decreased family size and the continued population shift to eastern Lake County.

Table 7.4 Mentor Public Schools Acreage

<i>School Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Mentor High School	Center St.	74
Memorial Middle School	Mentor Ave.	23
Ridge Middle School	Johnnycake Ridge Rd.	27
Shore Middle School	Hopkins Rd.	36
Bellflower Elementary	Reynolds Rd.	45
Brentmoor Elementary	Johnnycake Ridge Rd.	8
Fairfax Elementary	Fairfax Dr.	10
Garfield Elementary	Hopkins Rd.	4
Headlands Elementary	Forest Rd.	33
Hopkins Elementary	Hopkins Rd.	9
Lake Elementary	Pinehurst	14
Sterling Morton Elementary	Jordan Dr.	12
Orchard Hollow Elementary	Hendricks Rd.	12
Rice Elementary	Lakeshore Blvd.	26

Source: Lake County GIS

The public school system is complemented by several local private and parochial schools. Most of the students in both these elementary and secondary schools are from Mentor; however, they also draw students from much of Lake County. Lake Catholic High School and the Mentor Christian School are instances of this type of facility. These facilities expand the alternatives for education that are available to Mentor residents. Within Mentor are located the Broadmoor School and the Deepwood Center. These institutions provide education and training to the individuals with developmental disabilities of Lake County. Individuals with developmental disabilities in Mentor may also take advantage of the training facilities of the East Shore Center in Kirtland. These facilities, owned and operated by the Lake County Commissioners, have been enthusiastically supported by all of Lake County.

Mentor is fortunate to have a wealth of knowledge and technology within a short distance of the city. Within approximately 45 miles of Mentor there are nine major universities and two community colleges, numerous businesses, and technical and trade schools that provide excellent educational opportunities for Mentor residents. Just as importantly they provide a rich and valuable resource of talent and advanced technology for businesses in the city.

Lakeland Community College has had a positive impact on the City of Mentor. Partially located within the city, the college founded in 1967 has provided higher education and advanced training for numerous Mentor residents and workers. The college not only provides the foundation for a full college degree but also provides excellent specialized training as required by a community.

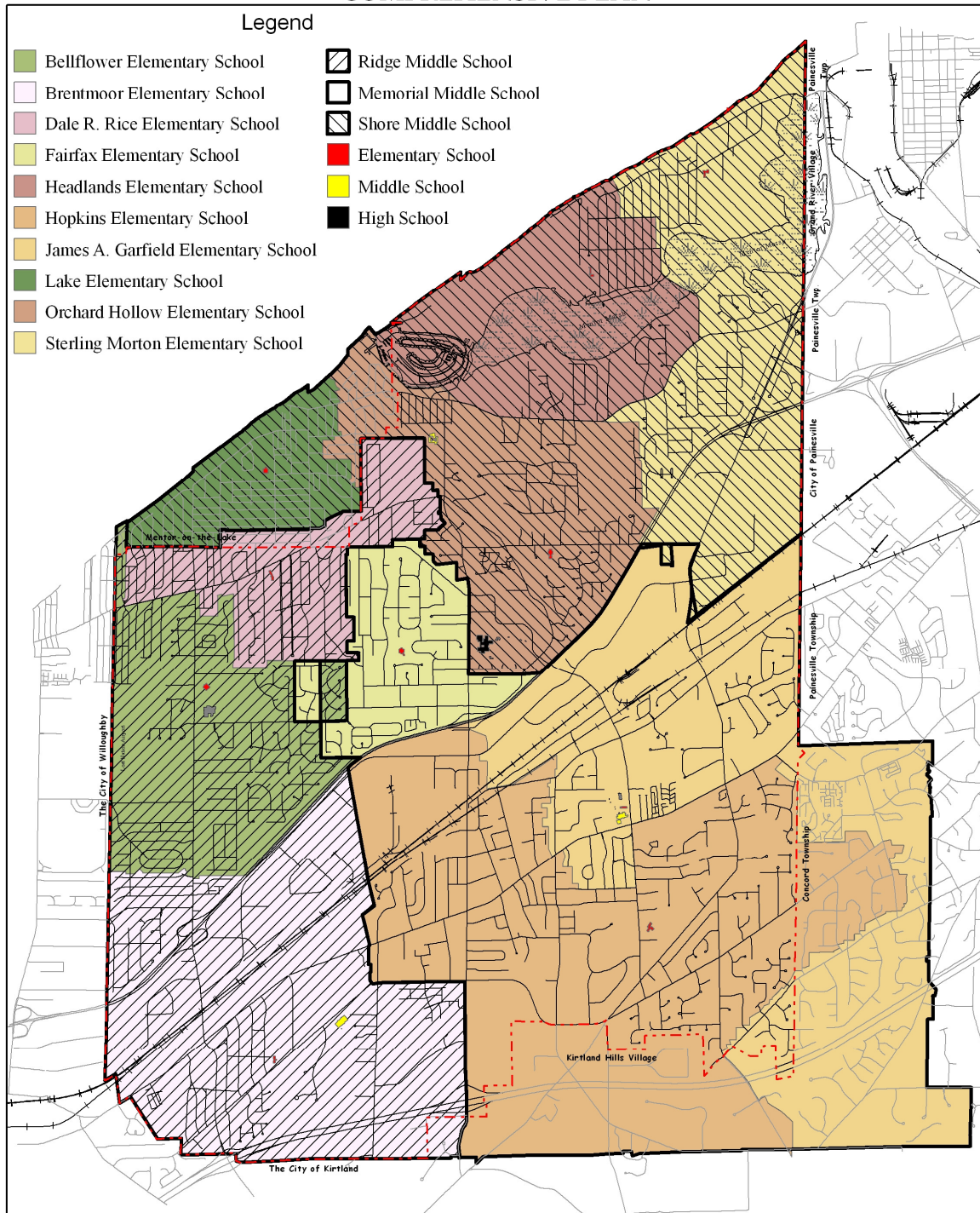
Table 7.5 Lake County School Districts Enrollment

	Fairport	Kirtland	Madison	<i>Mentor</i>	Painesville City	Riverside Local	Perry	Wickliffe	Willoughby Eastlake
1996-97	623	915	3,514	11,042	2,366	3,945	1,981	1,590	9,279
1997-98	591	921	3,556	10,905	2,442	3,956	1,958	1,584	9,111
1998-99	573	953	3,528	10,429	2,552	4,013	1,970	1,558	9,111
1999-00	506	947	3,434	10,150	2,356	3,705	1,924	1,416	8,687
2001-02	549	987	3,430	9,666	2,636	3,992	1,873	1,445	8,484
2002-03	594	1,039	3,355	9,911	2,702	4,161	1,844	1,452	8,575
2003-04	599	1,035	3,304	10,313	2,609	4,232	1,824	1,495	8,529
2004-05	578	1,084	3,350	9,925	2,826	4,471	1,860	1,497	8,567
2005-06	581	1,107	3,431	9,553	3,038	4,628	1,846	1,404	8,568
2006-07	538	1,173	3,604	8,876	3,053	4,815	1,893	1,495	8,944
2007-08	557	1,152	3,635	8,495	3,033	4,911	1,907	1,469	8,941
2008-09	585	1,161*	3,599	8,373	2,827	5,017	1,872	1,447	8,930
Change (1996- 2009)	-38	+246	+85	-2,669	+461	+1072	+109	-143	-349

*October, 2008

Map 7.7: School Attendance Areas

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



7.4 HISTORIC RESOURCES

One of the legacies of Mentor's past, which is still evident, is its historical structures. These buildings serve as a link with the city's past. Buildings that are architecturally, aesthetically or historically of value provide a unique character and charm to the city. Once lost these buildings can never be replaced and lost with them would be an invaluable link to the past.

There are eleven buildings in Mentor listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are:

- James A. Garfield Home (Lawnfield)
- Gray-Goulton House
- James Mason House
- Corning-White House
- Sawyer Wayside House
- Lakeshore and Michigan Southern Railroad Station and Freight House.
- Garfield Library
- John G. Oliver House (Wildwood)
- Benjamin and Mary Young House
- John and Carrie Yagar House
- Mentor Village School



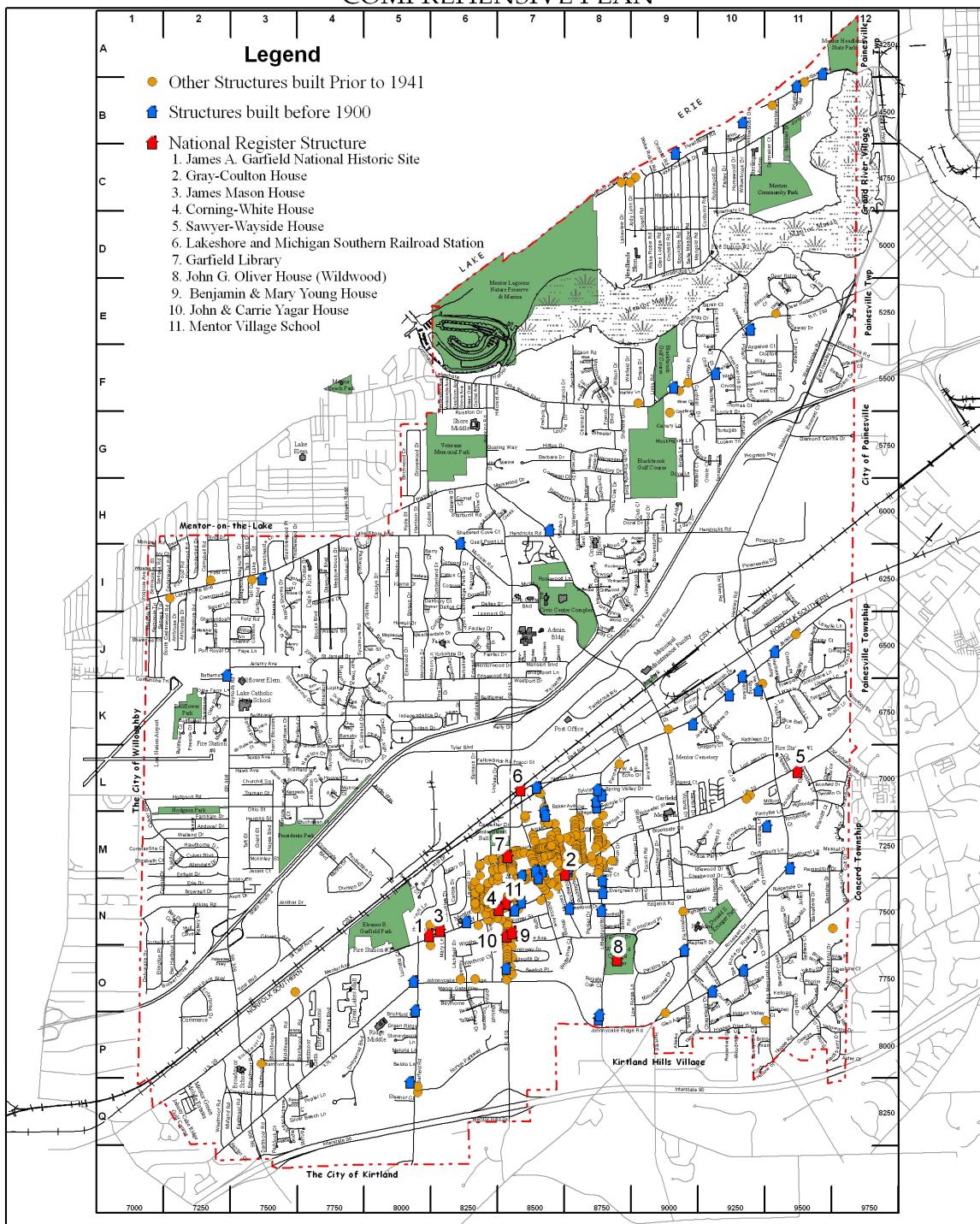
There are also more than 120 homes or structures within the City of Mentor built prior to 1900. Their locations are found on Map 7.8. Many of the houses are located within the Old Village area along Mentor Avenue and adjacent streets. Approximately 50 of these buildings are more than 100 years old which designates them as Heritage Homes. Many of these homes are distinguished by their architectural style. All types of architecture are represented. The dominant type, while not official, is commonly referred to as the Western Reserve style, which was an amalgamation of the Federal and Greek Revised style. There are also excellent examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Victorian architectural styles located throughout Mentor.

This plan recommends a complete evaluation of properties and the creation of a historic preservation overlay zone for in the Old Village area. New guidelines, while more stringent, will provide the basis for long-term preservation and help enforce a unique sense of place in this area. Historic districts exist in Willoughby, Painesville, and Madison Village.

Map 7.8: Historic Resources

HISTORIC RESOURCES

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY

Mentor is serviced by full time fire and police departments. Five fire stations providing paramedic level emergency medical services are located throughout the city. The police department is located within the Civic Center Complex.

Police Department

Police protection in the City of Mentor is provided by a staff of 82 sworn police officers comprised of 65 patrol officers, three special patrol officers, nine sergeants, four lieutenants, three captains, and one Chief of Police.

Within the patrol division, Mentor Police Department fields a SWAT team, hostage negotiators, evidence technicians, field training officers, K-9 teams, emergency ordinance disposal team, a bicycle and ATV unit, firearms instructors, defensive tactics instructors, pursuit driving instructors, and other special operations. The patrol division also manages the detective bureau.

Within the support services division, Mentor Police provides a court liaison officer, supervises the communications unit, records room, jail, property and evidence, facilities management, vehicles, and report review. The administrative division oversees training, hiring, crime prevention/community services, grants, website maintenance, general orders maintenance, and the department budget. In 2007, one captain was designated as the technology administrator, in charge of information technology, accident reconstruction, computer forensics, SWAT, and the range.

The City of Mentor Police Department civilian support includes one supervisor with twelve full time and two part-time communication operators, one supervisor and four records clerks, one supervisor and five corrections officers, three secretaries, one victim's advocate, a courtroom security officer, a research and training specialist, two vehicle maintenance technicians, and eight part-time school crossing guards.

Mentor Police Department is also served by the Lake County Crime Lab, a division of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. The Lake County Crime Lab is funded by a countywide tax levy. All criminal cases are arraigned in Mentor Municipal Court and felony cases are prosecuted through the Lake County Common Pleas Court.

The City of Mentor Police Department looks forward to providing progressive and innovative police services to the citizens of Mentor and Lake County, and to maintain its position as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the State of Ohio.

Fire Department

Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Mentor is provided by the Mentor Fire Department which exists to serve the community and pledges to continue to deliver professional, cost effective services in a personal, responsive, and innovative manner that will always serve the public's best interest.

Through a system of education, preparedness, response and recovery, the Mentor Fire Department utilizes the following five operating divisions to deliver this service to the

community: Fire Prevention, Education, Fire and Rescue, Fire Administration and Maintenance.

Fire Administration is responsible for the planning, staffing, budgeting, and management of the Mentor Fire Department.

The Fire Rescue Division is the largest division of the Mentor Fire Department and provides quick and effective service delivery from these five stations located throughout the City of Mentor. These Fire Stations are:

Station 1

6929 Heisley Road Opened in 1990, Originally located at 7262 Jackson Street

Minimum Staffing 4 personnel, a front line Fire Engine, a reserve Fire Engine, an Advance Life Support Ambulance, a Reserve Advance Life Support Ambulance, a Grass (Brush) Fire Truck, and a Hazardous Material response team.

Station 2

5025 Corduroy Road Opened in 1995, originally located at the north end of Corduroy.

Minimum Staffing is 4 personnel, a front line Fire Engine, a reserve Fire Engine, and Advance Life Support Ambulance.

Station 3

7957 Mentor Avenue Opened in 1965

Minimum Staffing is 4 personnel, a front line Fire Engine, a reserve Ladder Truck and Advance Life Support Ambulance.

Station 4

6900 Reynolds Road Opened in 1971, previously located behind the present station

Minimum Staffing is 4 personnel, a front line Fire Engine, Water Rescue team consisting of a rapid deployment unit with two boats, an Advance Life Support Ambulance, Air Truck, Mass Casualty Response Unit; Technical Rescue Response Team capable of trench, high angle, collapse, heavy and technical rescue, and Urban Search and Rescue.

Station 5

8467 Civic Center Boulevard- Headquarters

Opened 1971, with major remodeling completed in 2003

Minimum Staffing is 6 personnel, plus a Battalion Chief, a front line fire engine, a front line ladder truck, an advance life support ambulance, a reserve fire truck, a special service Unit with heavy rescue equipment, Command vehicle and Staff.

The Fire Rescue Division is responsible for the day-to-day provision of emergency services to citizens. The essential mission and number one priority of the members assigned to the Fire Rescue Division is to take care of people by providing them with the best service possible.

The Fire Rescue Division is staffed by 112 members who are all State Certified Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical providers, many have advanced or specialized training.

The Mentor Fire Department has three “Special Teams” to respond to the dangerous, yet less frequent emergencies that could occur. They are:

- The Technical Rescue Team consists of 22 members of the Mentor Fire Department who have taken extra training in confined space, trench collapse, and rope rescue. The team drills once a month with each drill covering a specific area of discipline.
- The Hazardous Materials Team (Haz-Mat) is a specialized group of department members who have received specific training in order to become certified Hazardous Material Technicians. Team members have the ability to research, identify and perform risk analysis prior to entry into hazardous areas to mitigate the particular hazard. Each trained member completes annual required continuing education to recognized standards of OSHA 1910.120 and NFPA 472. Monthly training drills are conducted both within the department and in cooperation with the Lake County Hazard Intervention Team (H.I.T.). The H.I.T. consists of members from several fire departments within the county, all of which are certified Haz-Mat Technicians.
- The Mentor Water Rescue consists of 14 divers who are internationally certified in basic and advanced SCUBA, search and recovery, underwater investigation, ice diving, and Dive Master. Members of the Water Rescue Team train actively throughout the year on a monthly basis, regardless of weather conditions.

Fire Prevention is responsible to work to protect the lives and property of our citizens, visitors, and firefighters through effective code enforcement by reviewing land development and building plans; inspecting buildings, tenant processes, and fire and life safety protection systems; and evaluating public/private water systems for effective fire protection.

The Public Education division of the Mentor Fire Department assists the general public with training and safety information. Besides providing first aid, CPR, AED, and fire extinguisher classes for businesses in the city, the educators also visit the schools with fire and injury prevention classes. Public Education runs the Children’s Safety House and assists in maintaining the Mentor Fire Museum. Public Education is involved in many community events, as well as utilizing media channels that provide safety and other important information.

7.6 CITY GOVERNMENT

Mentor’s Civic Center is centrally located along Civic Center Blvd. The Center and surrounding area contains the Municipal Center, police department, central fire station, civic center, ice arena, senior center and a number of ancillary recreational areas.

All administrative offices are located within the Mentor Municipal Center, 8500 Civic Center Boulevard. This is a 51,000 square foot facility that includes the Mentor City Council Chambers, the City Manager’s Office and the Mentor Municipal Court and the Police Department. The original building was built in 1975 and an addition that currently houses the Police Department was completed in the early 1980’s. Second rounds of renovations to the Police Department were recently completed.

7.7 COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTERS (other facilities, Map 7.9)

Civic Ice Arena/Community Center – This is really two facilities in one, and generally separate in nature and operation.

The Community Center, a portion of which started out as a City Teen Center, is now a rental facility and is also used for some recreation programs. The Center is open to resident and non-resident use.

The Ice Arena consists of two large rinks (200 x 85 feet) and a studio rink (75 x 45 feet). The studio rink is used primarily for private lessons, beginning hockey, party rentals, and open tot skating.

The west ice rink is open year round except for about 4 weeks in late May – early June for annual maintenance from Fall through Spring. The rink is used for high school hockey, teams, Mentor youth hockey, open skating, adult pick-up hockey, and figure skating. The rink hosts regional and national figure skating competitions and regional and national hockey tournaments.

Mentor Senior Center – The Senior Center is a day-use facility located at 8484 Munson Road, near the Community Center, which currently provides a full range of recreational experiences for approximately 10,000 senior citizens. Founded in 1973, the Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to about 9:00 p.m., 5 days per week providing a full schedule of classes, tours, parties, exercise, crafts, and workshops. Weekend and evening programs are also available.

Senior center usage is expected to increase as the demographic profile of the city ages. Today's seniors are much more active than previous decades and will provide a market for new programs and recreational opportunities.

Wildwood Center – A primarily passive recreation resource which is open to the public. Wildwood is administered by the City of Mentor with assistance from an appointed Cultural Arts Commission whose art programs are supported in part by a membership of over 300 residents and non-residents. The City provides a yearly operating budget and maintains the site year round.

Wildwood is home to multiple clubs and organizations, and is used by three service clubs. The Center also provides numerous classes, hires instructors, organizes special events and hosts numerous shows. The site provides adequate parking and a passive nature/hiking trail.

Wildwood is efficiently operated and well maintained. The facility is not ADA accessible due to its narrow doorways and multilevel floors, but the architectural integrity of the structure is protected by its National Register designation. The facility does operate a wheelchair lift to make the first floor accessible.

The 34 acre facility is also well suited for weddings, corporate events or small gatherings.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park Recreation Center – The Garfield Park Recreation Center is a two-story building approximately 3,500 square feet in size. Located on the second floor in the recreation center, is a large hardwood floor ballroom which is used for rental of up to 170 people. The center is also used for a large number of recreation classes, i.e., aerobic dance, ballet, ballroom dance, creative dance, gymnastics and tumbling.

The first floor has a lounge room which is used for rentals of up to 60 people, and is also used for recreational classes, karate, tap dance, leg enhancement and many other youth and adult classes.

The center also has a women's and men's restroom which are the only restrooms available in the whole park. The restrooms are very heavily used during summer, due to all the league play and general park use. They are also used throughout the year for spring and fall soccer players and year round tennis players.

Mentor Beach Park Pavilion – Located on Lake Erie, the pavilion has two enclosed rooms available for rental and which are also used for recreation classes. Restrooms are provided for building patrons and separate restrooms for park users.

The original construction dates back to 1936 when it was used as a dance hall and offered changing rooms and showers for those using the beach. Today, the beach is nearly non-existent and the basement has been sealed up. Although this structure has sentimental value in the community, the need to make large scale repairs to the structure are evident.

Old Council Hall – Located at 7250 Jackson Street, the facility was originally built in 1856 as a church. Its most notable parishioner was President James A. Garfield. The building is used for classes as well as rentals for up to 100 people. Although not on the National Historic Register, the integrity of the building has been preserved.

Service Center - The City of Mentor stores and repairs all their vehicles at the Service Center located on Hopkins Road near Tyler Blvd. This 62,000 square foot facility was built in 1999.

Mentor City Cemetery - The Mentor Cemetery started out as a 10 acre property at the corner of Hopkins Road and Jackson Road in 1854. Originally it was operated by the Mentor Cemetery Association. At some point, the Mentor Township Trustees took over administration of the cemetery and finally, the City of Mentor took over administration when the Village and Township merged in 1964.

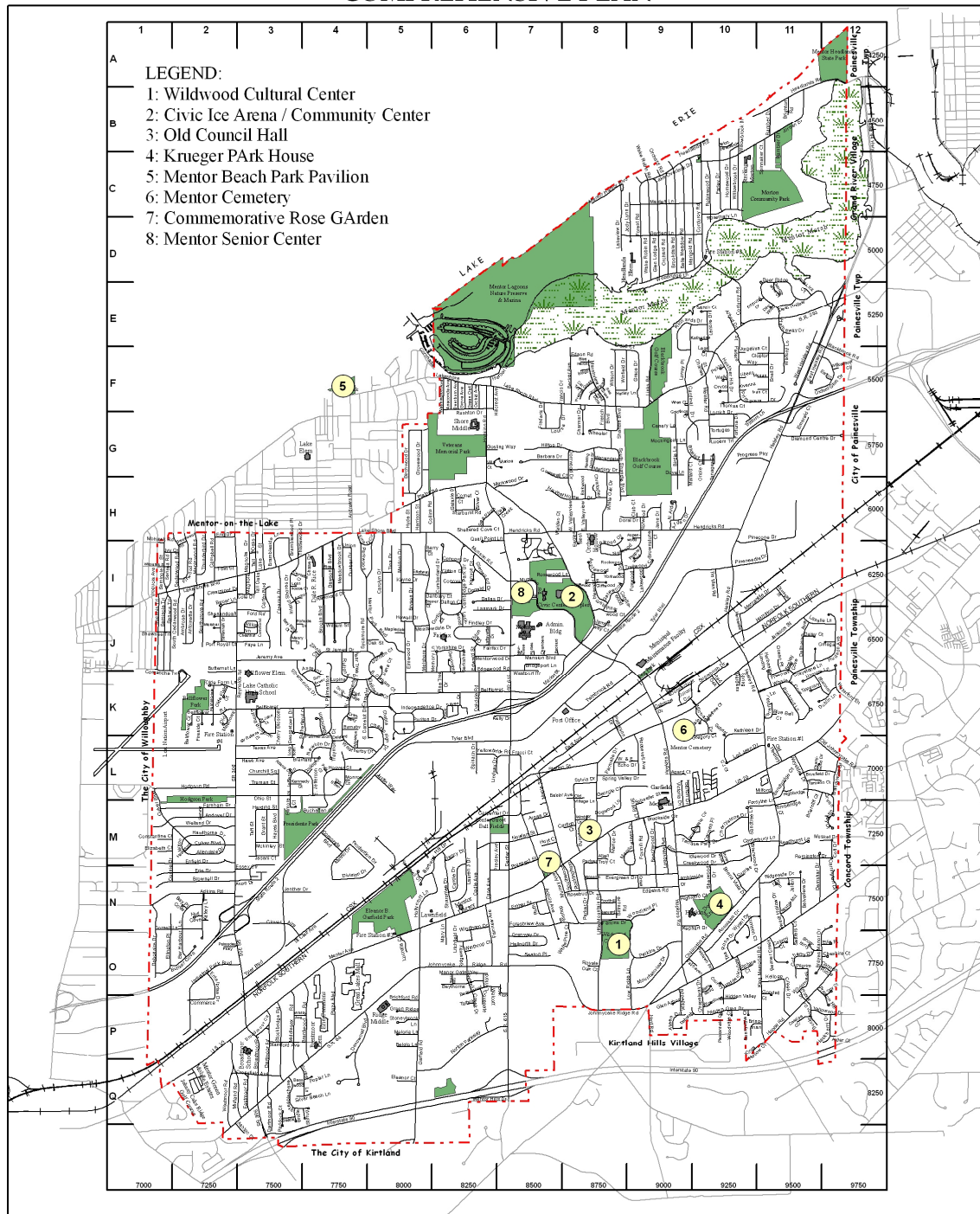
The cemetery has been expanded to 60 acres. Only 37 acres have been used.

Jackson Street Property - Old Fire Station Number One on Jackson Street is being used as the Mentor Fire Museum. It is currently housing two old fire engines. The Old Council Chambers, which was originally built as a church and became the Mentor Township Hall, is being used for recreational programs and being rented out to the general public. There is also the Mentor Children's Safety House located on that property behind the Old Council Chambers.

Map 7.9: City Facilities

OTHER CITY FACILITIES

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



7.9 GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 1

“TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION”

Policies:

- A. Develop, plan and provide programs, activities, and events that encourage all ages to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.
- B. Ensure physical layout and amenities of the site suffice to the market demands of the changing demographic.
- C. Continue to promote natural water body related activities (kayaking, hiking, birding, fishing).

GOAL 2

“TO STRIVE TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES FOR THE MAXIMUM SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF RESIDENTS”

Policies:

- A. Provide adequate parking to attract larger events.
- B. Ensure that facilities are designed to be state of the art in terms of construction, safety equipment, and materials facilitating ease of use and maintenance.
- C. Monitor, review and repair all buildings, facilities and grounds regularly to ensure the safest possible surroundings for residents and users.

GOAL 3

“TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES”

Policies:

- A. Major recreational facilities such as Blackbrook Golf Course and Mentor Lagoons may be developed as enterprise operations provided self contained operation, significant specialized recreational amenities, retail and service component, cost covering user fees and provide a significant public benefit.
- B. Extend usage through select lighting.
- C. Improve physical layout and circulation in existing parks, with the ultimate goal of complete park connectivity.

- D. Constantly review all facilities to be able to expand, contract and adapt based on the needs of the residents.

GOAL 4

“CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE AND LINK EXISTING FACILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES BASED ON AN ACQUISITION PLAN.”

Policies:

- A. Develop land use regulations that protect sensitive natural areas and buffers from development.
- B. Promote land use practices that provide win-win situations for the community, homeowner, and developer through conservation easements and thoughtfully designed planned unit development projects.
- C. Garner widespread local support for a coordinated plan for the marsh area, the overall goal of the SAMP and the Western Lake County Coastal Comprehensive Plan.
- D. Public agencies and non-profit organizations should continue efforts to acquire parcels of environmental significance when available.
- E. Encourage land preservation requirements in all major development programs.